

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 June 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, MS*  
*Trim Ref : 08/5289*

13 June, 2008



## 2007 - 2008 Summary

Rainfall in the south of the Basin over the last 12 months, particularly over the Murray River, was generally below average with the lower Murray and South Australia experiencing falls that were very much below average. Rainfall in the north of the Basin was at or slightly above the long term annual average (see map 1).

Inflows to the Murray System (excluding inflow to Menindee Lakes and inflow from the Snowy Scheme) in 2007-08 totalled around 2 230 GL, the 6th lowest on record. It was significantly below the long term annual average of 8 900 GL but more than double the previous minimum of 970 GL that occurred in 2006 - 07. Total MDBC active storage (excluding Menindee Lakes) at the end of the 07/08 water year was 1 130 GL, significantly higher than 740 GL in storage at the end of the 06/07 water year. However, approximately 400 GL of the 1 130 GL is individual carryover water being held in storage for 08/09.

## Rainfall and Inflows

The west of the Basin experienced widespread rain with some heavier falls of 25 to 50 mm. Broken Hill, in western NSW, received the highest rainfall with 79 mm. Little or no rain was received across the north of the Basin and the south of the Basin experienced only light falls of between 5 to 15 mm (see map 2).

## River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has remained at the minimum rate of 200 ML/day and storage was steady at 687 GL (17% capacity). Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by around 30 GL to 426 GL (14% capacity). The flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) is around the current minimum of 800 ML/day and has averaged 820 ML/day for approximately four weeks. This is the longest time ever recorded that the flow has been at this low rate.

Yarrowonga Weir release has been increased from 3 800 to 4 000 ML/day over the past week and the lake level has reduced by a further 60 cm to 122.8 m AHD. If it stays dry, the level of Lake Mulwala is likely to go as low as 122.0 m AHD (2.9 m below full supply level) by this time next week. The increase in release will mitigate an expected rise in river salinity caused by the removal of Mildura Weir for maintenance (see below).

During the past few weeks, river salinities from Lock 6 to Lock 1 have remained fairly steady. At Morgan the salinity is 415 EC compared with 400 EC in mid May. The salinity at Milang on Lake Alexandrina remains high at 3 500 EC. The water level in Lake Alexandrina is steady at about -0.45 m AHD (or 45cm below mean sea level).

## Mildura Weir pool drawdown

Lowering of the Mildura Weir pool commenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> June and it has fallen from 34.42 to 34.01 m AHD so far. The pool is expected to be lowered to about 30.8 m AHD by about the 18<sup>th</sup> June. It will stay at about this level for around 10 days while some of the trestles are replaced (some undergoing refurbishment).

The salinity downstream of Mildura Weir is expected to rise over the next few weeks as a result of the weir pool draw down. The last time Mildura Weir was completely drawn down in May 2003, the river salinity increased downstream from about 160 EC to 680 EC. If necessary, additional water may be released from both Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs in the coming weeks to supplement the additional

releases from Yarrawonga Weir to help mitigate the rise in river salinity. Further information on this will be provided as necessary over the coming weeks.

The more saline river water is expected to reach the vicinity of Lake Victoria in mid July. At that time the flow past Lock 9 will be reduced to zero and the more saline water will be diverted into Lake Victoria where it will mix with the fresher lake water. While the flow past Lock 9 is zero (about three weeks duration), water in the Lock 8 weir pool will be drawn upon to maintain a flow along Mullaroo Creek and a very small flow downstream of Lock 7. In preparation for this operation, the Lock 8 weir pool will be temporarily raised to 60cm above FSL and then gradually drawn on as required. It is possible that Lock 8 may need to be lowered to 40cm below FSL at the end of this operation.

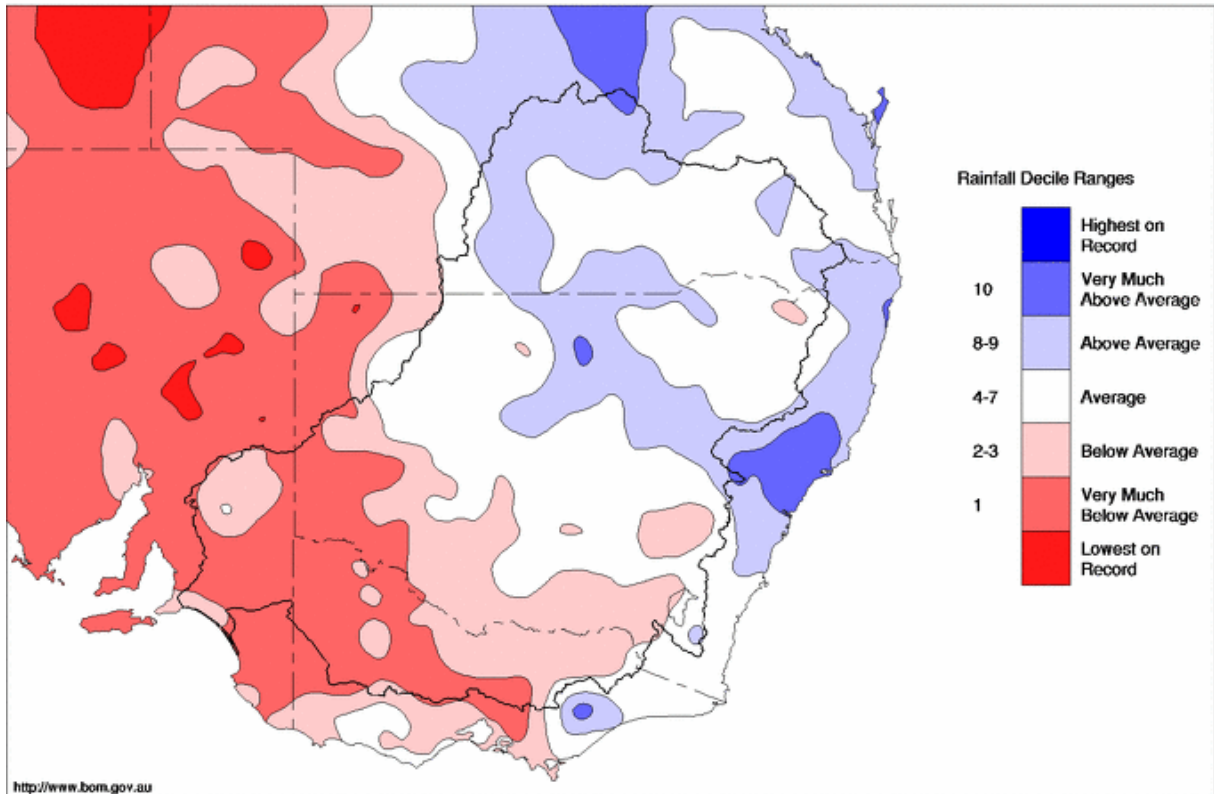
Updates on this operation will be provided in future weekly reports, as there may be adjustments required in order to take into account conditions experienced at the time.

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles 1 June 2007 to 31 May 2008

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre

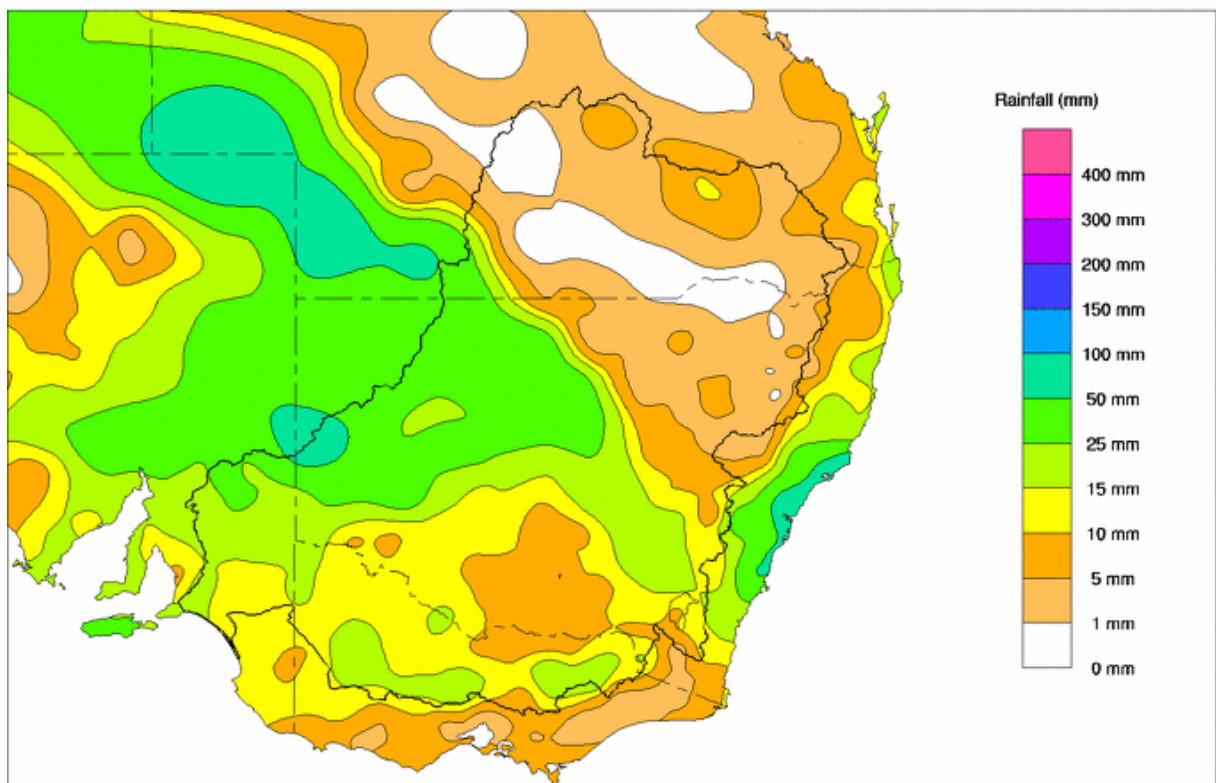


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Issued: 04/06/2008

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th June 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



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**Water in Storage**

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	411.17	686	18%	80	606	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.31	426	14%	30	396	+32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.29	274	40%	100	174	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		550	32%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 936</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 176</b>	<b>+31</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **14%**

# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		423	41%	3	420	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		553	34%	24	529	+16
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		455	13%	100	355	+3

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Jun-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	167	-27	Snowy-Murray	+22	135
Snowy-Murray Component	231	-15	Tooma-Tumut	+2	12
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	20.3	122
			Murray 1 Release	+22	145

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	89.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	23.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	22.2
Licensed Pumps	0.6	86.8
Lower Darling	0.1	11.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>233.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	138
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	241
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	94 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	23
Licensed pumps - LMW	1.3	180
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>676 *</b>

\* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	90 *	
Flow this week	11.9	(1 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	18	
Flow last month	56	

\* Reduced to approx. 45 GL during June drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	80	80	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	130	130	150
Burtundy (Darling)	320	320	880
Lock 9	220	250	160
Lake Victoria	240	250	200
Berri	360	340	350
Waikerie	-	390	520
Morgan	410	410	550
Mannum	610	590	650
Murray Bridge	740	690	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	4 060	3 580	3 000
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 790	3 110	2 590
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	3 160
Goolwa Barrages	22 990	21 000	20 810



**River Levels and Flows**

	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 610	F	3 380	4 280
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 320	S	4 200	4 480
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.39	218.28	590	R	440	380
Heywoods	5.5	1.14	154.77	480	S	460	450
Doctors Point	5.5	1.33	149.80	810	S	820	850
Albury	4.3	0.55	147.99	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.27	126.29	850	S	870	880
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	115.84	4 000	S	3 840	2 860
Tocumwal	6.4	1.24	105.08	3 920	S	3 720	2 300
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.46	80.01	3 980	R	3 450	2 050
Swan Hill	4.5	0.83	63.75	3 520	R	2 440	2 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.59	50.71	2 790	R	2 500	2 650
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.58	42.42	2 530	F	2 680	2 610
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 830	F	2 830	2 770
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	2 870	R	2 480	2 390
Rufus Junction	-	2.48	19.41	880	F	990	990
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.39	-	1 220	S	1 130	1 060
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.85	154.08	380	S	410	500
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	343	F	420	500
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.10	92.52	352	S	350	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.55	80.32	280	F	300	250
Edward at Liewah	-	0.69	56.07	311	F	360	460
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.90	54.39	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.37	56.33	146	F	160	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.06	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	67	F	50	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	43	R	50	40

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 240	1 980
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-2.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+0.16
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.13	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.16	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.14	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.49	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.14	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.52	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-1.14

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.79	0.382	69.732	101
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-5.20	-0.1	61.2	95



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

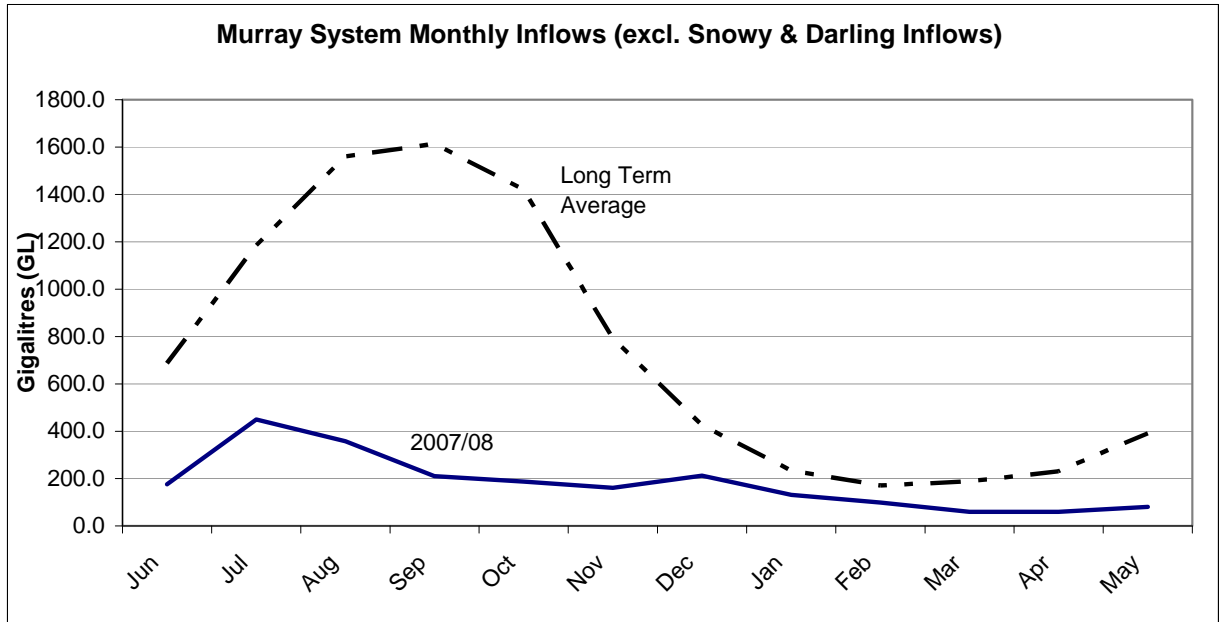
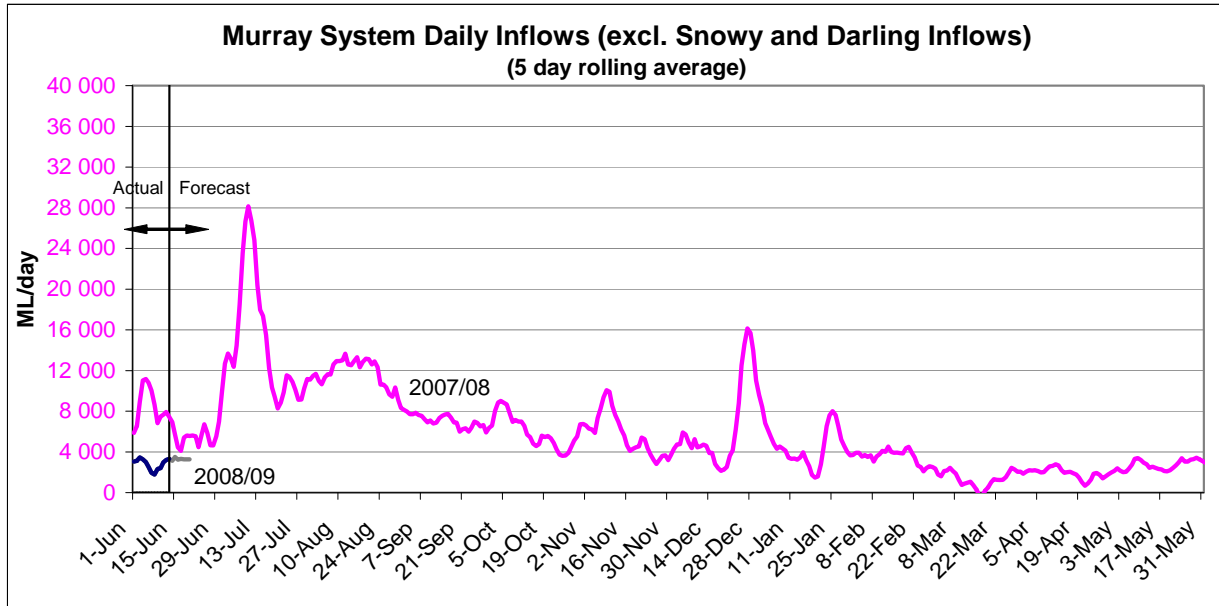
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.46

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.40	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.46	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



**State Allocations (as at 11th June 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	25%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	90%
General security	13%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	50%

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	43%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	57%
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**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	32%
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NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state\\_mm\\_murr\\_water\\_quality.shtml#alloc](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state_mm_murr_water_quality.shtml#alloc)  
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>